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# Newsletter

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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## AGRICULTURE--HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WOULD HELP NONMETROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

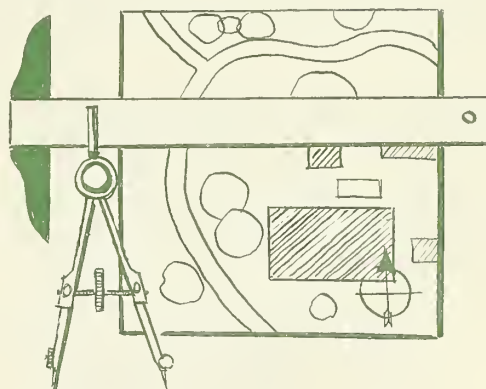
The U. S. Department of Agriculture has signed two agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and one with the Department of Commerce to coordinate efforts aimed at helping nonmetropolitan planning and development districts.

The first agreement, between USDA and HUD, calls for:

- \* HUD to attempt to increase State funding of nonmetropolitan districts and

- \* USDA to assist in the formation of these districts and in their planning program.

HUD began making grants for nonmetropolitan planning and development districts (including Economic Development Districts) in Fiscal Year 1969 (which ended June 30, 1969). Grants were made in the amount of \$977,732 to a total of 35 districts in 17 States.



In the Fiscal Year that ended July 1, 1970, HUD made grants totaling more than \$2 million to an estimated 90 districts.

In the second agreement, between USDA, HUD and the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce, the three Departments will coordinate their various technical and financial assistance in establishment and operation of the State-designated districts.

These agreements reflect USDA's current efforts to encourage other departments and agencies to engage more directly in rural development.

An earlier agreement between USDA and HUD resulted in the appointment of a Rural Housing Coordinating Group to focus attention on such rural housing needs as additional credit, better utilization of existing units and greater availability of building sites.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY OFFERS COURSE  
TO BROADEN YOUNG RURAL LEADERS

A pilot program to broaden the outlook of young rural leaders of high potential in the 20-to 35-year age bracket is scheduled to begin this November at Pennsylvania State University under a \$500,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

About half the young men will be directly involved in farming. The rest will be non-farming residents of small towns and the countryside.

Each year for the next three years, 105 young adults will be brought into the program for 20-day training periods of four to five days each. The first session will extend from November, 1970, through March, 1971, and will cover such subjects as the nature of public problems, the impact of technology on economic opportunity for different groups and community problem solving.

The second year will emphasize local and national problems and will include field trips to urban areas, Washington, D. C. and Appalachia. The third year will concentrate on national and international problems and will feature a field trip to Latin America.

More information may be obtained by writing Robert Howell, the Weaver Building, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania, 16802.

WASTE TREATMENT PLANT TO INCREASE  
EFFICIENCY OF PLANT OPERATIONS

With a new \$1 million industrial waste water treatment facility to be completed this year at its wood fiber products plant in Piermont, N. Y., the Continental Can Company expects:

- 1) to recover about six tons of sludge containing wood pulp fibers each day for reuse in manufacturing operations, and
- 2) to reduce the mill's average daily need for water from 2.7 million gallons to 2 million gallons (by providing some reuse of mill process water).

The treatment process will include aeration of the mill waste water before it is discharged into Rockland County's outfall line.

Additional information may be obtained by writing the Pure Waters Division, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, N. Y. 12201

ALABAMA, NORTH CAROLINA REPORT RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION

Alabama reports considerable progress in industrialization in rural areas. The State Chamber of Commerce indicated that 128 new industries were constructed in 1969. These provided nearly 14,000 jobs with 9,000 of them located in predominantly rural areas.

North Carolina reports that 720 of the 859 industries which have opened new plants in that state during the past six years have chosen sites in smaller communities and rural areas.



### MICHIGAN FARMER HELPS CITY FOLKS FIND NATURE

Some 200 miles from Detroit in rural Harrisville, Michigan, Robert Reames built an attractive pond on an unproductive pasture on his farm in 1966, constructed an A-frame cabin, planted some Christmas trees and wildlife habitat, then advertised the availability of his cabin in a Detroit newspaper. He's been busy every since--renting the cabin winter and summer, building another cabin, creating nature trails out of woods and pastures and planning still more additions to his burgeoning business.

"You can sell recreation at almost any price if you have what people want," Reames observed.

Reames' story is related in the August, 1970, issue of Soil Conservation Magazine available free in individual copies by writing the editor, care of Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

### FUTURE FARMERS LAUNCH PROGRAM TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A nationwide program to involve young people in community development begins this Fall, with the 450,000-member Future Farmers of America organization taking the lead.

It employs "Build Our American Communities," a guide developed by the Farmers Home Administration which details a study action program involving systematic discussion, and uses the community as a laboratory and workshop. The guide is available for any organization. Participants plan, develop and carry out action projects compatible with community needs.

Copies of a basic outline and project outline have been provided every Vocational Agriculture teacher and FHA office.



### MIGRANT FARM WORKERS ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

About 3,800 migrants farm workers from Texas, facing unemployment in Minnesota because of severe flood and storm damage to crops there this year, may become eligible for the first time this harvest season to collect disaster unemployment insurance benefits.

The migrants were made eligible under provisions of the Disaster Relief Act, which became law last Oct. 1.

By the end of July, 39,600 individuals had been determined eligible for disaster unemployment assistance.



United States Department of Agriculture

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JOBLESS MINERS HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES  
WHILE LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Jobless coal miners in Trinidad, Colorado, (population 9,000) are helping improve their communities while learning new skills under the Operation Mainstream program of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Of 98 needy jobless men who originally enrolled in the program, 60 have learned a craft and have been placed in permanent jobs, mostly as carpenters, masonry workers, and cement finishers, occupations needed in the area. Eighty percent were phased-out coal miners who knew no other work.

There are 38 currently enrolled in the program, which has brought a new city garage and a day care center to Trinidad as well as new community centers and a fire station to nearby communities.

Mainstream pays enrollees \$1.60 an hour for a 39-hour week, which includes 8 hours of remedial education or trade-related classroom study at Trinidad State Junior College.

HOUSING GAINS CITED  
BY FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Some 330,000 people residing in the countryside and in communities of up to 5,500 obtained new or improved housing through Farmers Home Administration programs in the fiscal year that ended June 30, reports the FHA.

A record \$793.7 million--including \$780 million or 98.5 percent--was supplied for this housing by private investors under the protection of FHA loan insurance.

FHA said it expects to double its housing services in the current fiscal year.